

REMARKS

Claims 25-34 and 64-73 are currently pending in this application. Claims 31 and 64 have been amended in this response.

In the Final Office Action mailed June 16, 2006, claims 31, 32 and 64 were rejected. More specifically, the status of the claims in light of this Office Action is as follows:

(A) Claims 31, 32 and 64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,906,472 to Nakamura ("Nakamura");

(B) Claims 25-30 were allowed; and

(C) Claims 34 and 65-73 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the features of the claims from which they depend.

The undersigned attorney wishes to thank the Examiner for engaging in a telephone conference on August 23, 2006, and requests that this paper constitute the applicants' Interview Summary. During the telephone conference, the Final Office Action, Nakamura, and proposed amendments to claims 31 and 64 were discussed. The Examiner tentatively agreed that the proposed amendments patentably distinguish claims 31 and 64 over Nakamura. Claims 31 and 64 have been amended accordingly.

A. **Response to the Section 102(e) Rejection**

Claims 31, 32 and 64 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Nakamura. In light of the agreement reached during the August 23 telephone conference, the Section 102(b) rejection of claims 31 and 64 should be withdrawn.

Claim 32 depends from claim 31. Accordingly, the Section 102(e) rejection of claim 32 should be withdrawn for at least the reasons discussed above with reference to claim 31 and for the additional features of this claim.

B. Objection to Claims 34 and 65-73

Claims 34 and 65-73 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the features of the claims from which they depend. These claims have not been rewritten in independent form because the rejection of their respective independent claims should now be withdrawn.

C. Conclusion

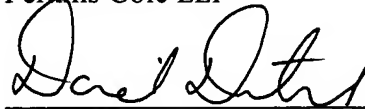
In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the applied art. The applicants accordingly request reconsideration of the application and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact David Dutcher at (206) 359-6465.

Date: _____

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Respectfully submitted,

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